

From: [Sutt, Jessica](#)
To: [Alt, Nicole](#); [Becker, Scott A](#); [Darling, Lizz](#); [Hughes, John P](#); [Chang, Lena](#)
Cc: [Mogadam, Roya](#); [Constantino, Maricela](#); [Nelson, Marjorie](#); [DeBerry, Drue](#); [Small, Stephen M](#)
Subject: Re: Response Requested by 12pm 6/15 | Media Inquiry - Colorado 10j Ruling Request within Reintroduced Wolves EIS
Date: Wednesday, June 15, 2022 12:45:11 PM
Attachments: [Outlook-sx52ddsa.png](#)
[Outlook-k2btrcv1.png](#)

Hello again everyone,

As a secondary priority to drafting your responses to this media inquiry, CPW has requested that FWS please review their following proposed responses to the same reporter, below. I will add these to the [shared document](#) for collaborative editing as needed. Thanks again for your attention!

Can you tell me if the collar fitted on the North Park male wolf is working?

Although three total tracking collars have been on members of the known wolf pack in North Park, Colorado, the collars are no longer functional.

One VHF collar was deployed on wolf F1084 in Wyoming in 2017. The battery on the collar had a limited lifespan (5 years) and is no longer functional.

Two additional collars have been deployed by CPW on wolves 2101 and 2202 in Colorado. 2101 had a collar deployed in the spring of 2021. 2202 had a collar deployed in the spring of 2022. Both collars had GPS as well as VHF technology. The GPS and VHS functions on both 2101 and 2202 collars have failed.

If it is, can you explain exactly how the collar works? How often does it ping to identify its location etc.

The GPS technology collected location points at a predetermined interval, stored them, and then communicated the data via satellite to CPW biologists. (CPW did not know exactly where a wolf was in real-time. Staff could view the newly collected location data every few days.) VHF technology emits detectable radio frequencies and allows animals to be located in the field.

Can you determine where the wolf has been but not where it presently is?

That's correct. See above.

If the male's collar isn't working and neither are the adult or yearling female collars, how is CPW looking for the adult female and den or the pack?

Although unfortunate, what happened with these collars is not all that uncommon. Importantly, CPW does not plan to collar all wolves in Colorado, and collars will not provide real-time location information. This highlights the need to diversify wolf monitoring and research tools.

This experience also demonstrates that it is important to develop conflict minimization strategies and programs that are not entirely reliant on having collar location information.

Although collars have failed, they are only one tool in CPW's toolbox. CPW biologists and wildlife

officers continue to monitor the wolf pack in North Park and our wildlife officers are working closely with area ranchers to minimize livestock depredations in the area.

To confirm a wolf sighting, field biologists rely on observations like signs of tracks and scat. CPW also has a wolf sighting form available on our website and we encourage people to fill it out if they believe they have seen a wolf in their area. We ask that any photos or video be included with these reports if available.



Jessica Sutt

Public Affairs Specialist

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[Mountain-Prairie Region](#)

[U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service](#)

From: Sutt, Jessica <jessica_sutt@fws.gov>

Sent: Wednesday, June 15, 2022 10:46 AM

To: Alt, Nicole <Nicole_Alt@fws.gov>; Becker, Scott A <scott_becker@fws.gov>; Darling, Lizz <lizz_darling@fws.gov>; Hughes, John P <john_hughes@fws.gov>; Chang, Lena <lena_chang@fws.gov>

Cc: Mogadam, Roya <roya_mogadam@fws.gov>; Constantino, Maricela <maricela_constantino@fws.gov>; Nelson, Marjorie <marjorie_nelson@fws.gov>; DeBerry, Drue <drue_deberry@fws.gov>; Small, Stephen M <stephen_small@fws.gov>

Subject: Re: Response Requested by 12pm 6/15 | Media Inquiry - Colorado 10j Ruling Request within Reintroduced Wolves EIS

Hi Nicole,

Thank you and the team for getting in to that shared media inquiry document on these 10j questions. The reporter just sent a set of additional questions. I'll add them to that [same shared doc](#) now. Can you and the team please try to respond to those as soon as possible too? Apologies for the extra workload and time crunch! Very much appreciate your effort though,
-Jess

" Apparently none of the three collars that were placed at different times on wolves of the North Park pack are operational.

My questions are these:

1. With no working collars, does USFWS intend to capture any of the pack members and fit them with a collar to record their travel?
2. I believe USFWS, not Colorado Parks and Wildlife, would need to do this. Is this correct?
3. Under current policy, is it legal for USFWS to use leghold traps on North Park wolves in an effort to fit them with collars?
4. If so, what is the process for that to happen?
5. If not legal, by what other means would USFWS use to capture the wolves? Aerial? "

[20220613 - Media Inquiry - Wolf 10j Colorado Reintroduction.docx](#)



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From: Alt, Nicole <Nicole_Alt@fws.gov>

Sent: Tuesday, June 14, 2022 5:12 PM

To: Chang, Lena <lena_chang@fws.gov>; Becker, Scott A <scott_becker@fws.gov>; Darling, Lizz <lizz_darling@fws.gov>; Hughes, John P <john_hughes@fws.gov>

Cc: Mogadam, Roya <roya_mogadam@fws.gov>; Sutt, Jessica <jessica_sutt@fws.gov>; Constantino, Maricela <maricela_constantino@fws.gov>; Nelson, Marjorie <marjorie_nelson@fws.gov>; DeBerry, Drue <drue_deberry@fws.gov>; Small, Stephen M <stephen_small@fws.gov>

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Adding Scott Becker, Lizz Darling, and John Hughes.

Thanks Lena. We'll draft a few talking points for this inquiry.

N

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The Colorado Ecological Services Office is moving toward 100% electronic project and technical assistance requests. To aid timely responses, please submit all requests to us via email. Send projects to: eastern slope - ColoradoES@fws.gov, or western slope - GrandJunctionES@fws.gov.

From: Chang, Lena <lena_chang@fws.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, June 14, 2022 3:56 PM
To: Alt, Nicole <Nicole_Alt@fws.gov>; Constantino, Maricela <maricela_constantino@fws.gov>; Small, Stephen M <stephen_small@fws.gov>; Nelson, Marjorie <marjorie_nelson@fws.gov>; DeBerry, Drue <drue_deberry@fws.gov>
Cc: Mogadam, Roya <roya_mogadam@fws.gov>; Sutt, Jessica <jessica_sutt@fws.gov>
Subject: Response Requested by 12pm 6/15 | Media Inquiry - Colorado 10j Ruling Request within Reintroduced Wolves EIS

Hi All,

We have a media request from [Coloradoan](#), Fort Collins area, for a story on the Colorado Wolf Introduction; specifically, they have three questions regarding the Colorado 10j Ruling Request within Reintroduced Wolves EIS.

Can you please provide your input on the responses to questions in this document by no later than 12pm MT on 6/15?

[20220613 - Media Inquiry - Wolf 10j Colorado Reintroduction.docx](#)

Preview of questions:

1. Now that Colorado is asking for a 10(j) ruling as part of its EIS on reintroduced wolves, would the 10(j) rule have any effect on how the existing North Park pack is managed?
2. Does the 10j ruling not cover the existing wolf pack?

3. If the 10j ruling does not cover the existing wolf pack, by what measures, if any, could the North Park wolfpack be removed or killed?

Thank you so much!

Lena

Lena Chang (*she/her*)

Acting Deputy Assistant Regional Director, External Affairs

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, [Mountain-Prairie Region](#) | Interior Regions 5 & 7

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